

Dear Commissioners:

Don't prevent states from fixing my cell phone problems. I am writing to oppose CG Docket No. 04-208 and WT Docket No. 05-194, which will unjustly take away the authority of states to tackle problems with cell phone service, including abusive cancellation penalties. Worse, the proposal will put in place a weak set of cell phone company-endorsed rules that offer no improvements in service or enforcement.

It's time to adopt policies that force cell phone companies to improve the level of service they provide to consumers. It is imperative that the FCC write rules governing cell 'phone service providers' activities, promotions, billing and service contract practices to promote the greatest protections for consumers. Further, there should be nothing in FCC rules to "pre-empt" state regulatory bodies to adopt stricter rules to protect citizens of their states from predatory practices by cell 'phone providers operating in those states. Regulation of land-line based telephone companies has long been the prerogative of state regulatory bodies. While cell technologies present somewhat unique challenges to those groups, in that interstate transmission of signals is inherent in cellular capabilities, that should not preclude development of rational regulatory schemes that maximally protect consumers from rapacious, predatory practices by providers. The FCC should work with state regulatory bodies to insure maximum protections for consumers of cell 'phone services.

Although CG Docket No. 04-208 purports to address consumer frustration with confusing cell phone bills, hidden fees and misleading advertising, the proposal does little for consumers. In the name of helping us, the agency is proposing to block states from passing their own pro-consumer laws. As bad, WT Docket No. 05-194 would bar state courts from enforcing state law when it comes to unfair and abusive cell phone contracts. That's going too far.

States are responding to consumer complaints. Don't stop them! And don't give in to adopting weak, industry-drafted rules in their place. The FCC should stand up to the cell phone industry, and respect states rights and strong consumer protections.

Sincerely,
Bob Walters